

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13 and 14 are pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 12 have been canceled, and claims 1, 7-9, 13 and 14 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Mathis in view Wood et al.; claims 5, 7, 8 and 12-14 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claim 11 was allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication and without acquiring to the Examiner's allegation made in rejecting the claims, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claims 5 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) noted in the Office Action is moot and the pending claims are allowable.

Further, it is respectfully requested this amendment be entered as it places the application in condition for allowance.

In addition, it is respectfully noted that the attorney's docket number for this application has been changed from 3449-0276P to 0630-2692PUS1.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

EHC/DAB/bsh

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By Esther H. Chong
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